



## **Multimedia artwork by Native American artists to be featured in Murray County** *Unique artifacts on display through February*

**OKLAHOMA CITY– (Oct. 2, 2017)** Three American Indian artists, Jeremy Wallace, Ashley Wallace and Ben Trosper will have their artwork featured at two separate locations in south-central Oklahoma.

Starting Nov. 1, 2017 through Feb. 28, 2018, Jeremy Wallace's artifacts and Ashley Wallace's beadwork will be on display at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma and Trosper's photographs will be showcased at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma.

These three artists represent different artistic capabilities within Native American culture, expressing their artistic voice through their own chosen medium, said Paige Williams Shepherd, director of corporate development and tourism for the Chickasaw Nation.

"Each artists' talent is derived from their passion for their heritage," said Shepherd. "Their passions allow visitors exploring Chickasaw Country to experience the diversity of art and each artists' craft as it relates to their individual Native American heritage while touring the tourism centers to find out more about what Chickasaw Country has to offer."

### **Jeremy Wallace, Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center, Davis, Oklahoma**

Wallace is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and was born with a passion for the arts and song and dance. He has been creating Native American art for over 20 years and his inspiration is derived from the history and culture of Native Americans as well as his own life experiences. Wallace is often recognized for his thorough knowledge of traditional arts, as he is most known for the craftsmanship of his drums and flutes.

Wallace has received awards at the Artesian Arts Festival in 2014, 2015 and 2016; the Southeastern Art Show and Market in every year from 2010 through 2015; and the Te Ata Fisher Employee Art Show in 2009 and 2011 through 2014. He was also selected as a featured artist for the Exhibit C painted drum exhibit in 2016.

### **Ashley Wallace, Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center, Davis, Oklahoma**

Wallace is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and has dedicated her artistic abilities to beadwork and finger-weaving. Wallace was taught basics of beadwork by her grandmother, and says those moments were the beginning of a lifelong commitment toward mastering her skills.

Wallace has been entered into many art competitions over the years and has received awards from the Southeastern Art Show and Market every year from 2012 through 2015; the Artesian Art Festival in 2015 and 2016; and the Chickasaw Nation Te Ata Fisher Employee Art Show in 2016. Wallace received the Co-Employee Choice Award with another artist, which was voted on by the employees of the Chickasaw Nation and was featured in the *Chickasaw Women Artisans* book written by Alison Fields. She also

participated in the Chickasaw Nation's Art of the Chickasaw Woman exhibit in 2016 and 2017. Her most recent accomplishment was finger-weaving Miss Oklahoma's belt for her upcoming pageants.

An artist reception will be held for both Jeremy and Ashley Wallace at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma on Saturday, Nov. 4 from noon-2 p.m.

### **Ben Trospser, Chickasaw Visitor Center, Sulphur, Oklahoma**

Trospser is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation and is known for his artwork in India ink and watercolors. His work explores the connection that people have with animals and their surroundings.

Trospser received his Bachelor of Arts with a primary focus in watercolors and secondary focus in drawing from Oklahoma State University. He currently resides in Tulsa and has been the Art Director for Foolish Things Coffee Company since June of 2013, where he finds and books artists for monthly gallery shows. Trospser has also worked as a freelance artist and graphic designer for several years.

A few of his accomplishments include completing mural work around the state of Oklahoma, becoming a featured artist at the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in 2017, and showing his work in the 2017 Artesian Arts Festival and in the 2017 Southeastern Art Show and Market Festival.

An artist reception will be held Trospser at the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma on Saturday, Nov. 4 from 3-5 p.m.

For more information on the artists receptions visit: [www.chickasawcountry.com](http://www.chickasawcountry.com).

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### **Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center in Davis, Oklahoma**

Located adjacent to Bedré Fine Chocolate, the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center is located at the southwest corner of exit 55 on Interstate 35. Opened in November 2012, the Chickasaw Nation Welcome Center has several amenities including a lounge area, vending machines, an outdoor children's playground and a dog park. Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the center call (580) 369-4222 or visit Chickasaw Country's website at [ChickasawCountry.com](http://ChickasawCountry.com).

### **Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur, Oklahoma**

Located across the street from the Artesian Hotel, the Chickasaw Visitor Center is located at the northeast corner of Broadway and State Highway 7 in Sulphur. Opened in November 2013, the Chickasaw Visitor Center includes a lounge area, a gift shop and multi-media video room. Hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the center, call (580) 622-8050 or visit Chickasaw Country's website at [ChickasawCountry.com](http://ChickasawCountry.com).

### **About Chickasaw Country**

Nestled in south-central Oklahoma, Chickasaw Country is a regional tourism organization representing 13 of Oklahoma's 77 counties. As the official destination tourism organization, Chickasaw Country includes 7,648 square miles, 11 percent of Oklahoma's total 68,597 square miles. Chickasaw Country, a division of the Chickasaw Nation, is a tourism source for visitors and communities within the region and promotes destinations, attractions and festivals. Chickasaw Country is a diverse and culturally-vested destination, with new adventures and experiences around every corner.

**About the Chickasaw Nation**

With more than 60,000 citizens, the Chickasaw Nation is the 12th largest federally-recognized Indian tribe in the United States. The Chickasaw Nation has an annual economic impact of more than \$2.4 billion in Oklahoma. The tribe has more than 14,000 employees. A democratic republic with executive, legislative and judicial departments, the tribe's jurisdictional territory includes all or part of 13 counties in south-central Oklahoma.

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